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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) It is proposed to include the water-supply scheme in the Second Five-Year Plan.

*2632 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the reasons for not providing the Government Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode, with protected water-supply?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hospital has been provided with an overhead tank and a pump fitted to one of the wells in the hospital compound. Only during summer months, water scarcity is being experienced. It is now proposed to improve the water-supply to the hospital by connecting pipes and obtaining water from the local municipality.

* 2633 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to provide Baliapatam town in Malabar with protected water-supply?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir.

Direct recruitment of Revenue Divisional Officers

* 2634 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any persons were selected for appointment to Revenue Divisional Officers' posts by direct recruitment from the Backward Classes; and

(*b*) if so, to what communities of the Backward Classes they belong?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The particulars are furnished below:—

(*a*) Yes; two from Backward Classes.

(*b*) Both belong to Agamudaiyans (including Tulluva Vellalas) Backward Community.

Palghat Electric Corporation

* 2635 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of workers in service in the Palghat Electric Corporation as on 31st March 1955 (temporary and permanent); and

(*b*) how many of them were absorbed by the Government and how many were discharged?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) There were thirty-eight such employees. There are no records with the Palghat Electric Licence Company to indicate how many of these employees were permanent and how many temporary.

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(b) All these thirty-eight employees have been taken over into the service of the Government Electricity Dpartment on a Provisional basis on the vesting of the Palghat Electrical Undertaking in the Government on 1st April 1955. The question of their regular absorption in Government service is under consideration.

Residential and Non-residential Scholarships

* 2636 Q.—Sri N. RAJAGOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the " Parents' income limit " for the grant of residential and non-residential scholarships to the Backward Community students in the various stages of education, namely, professional, collegiate secondary and so on?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : The annual income of the parents or guardians of the pupils of Backward Classes applying for scholarship awarded by the Harijan Welfare Department should not exceed Rs. 1,200 per annum in the case of pupils in secondary schools and Rs. 1,500 in the case of students in colleges including professional colleges.

Employees of ex-Pudukkottai Services

* 2637 Q.—Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of employees of the ex-Pudukkottai Services declared " Unqualified " for absorption in the Madras State Service who have been granted the Madras State Scales of pay from 1st January 1949 with right to arrears from 1st January 1949;

(b) the number of such employees who have been granted the Madras State scales of pay from 1st January 1949, but without right to arrears of salary from 1st January 1949; and

(c) the reasons for the differential treatment of employees of the same category?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) 555.

(b) 70.

(c) The payment of arrears to a majority of unqualified employees and denial of the same to a few is not due to any invidious discrimination on personal grounds. Arrears from 1st January 1949 have been allowed to those who have been exempted from possessing the necessary qualification by relaxation of rules or condonation of deficiency in qualification and who were considered as fully qualified. In some cases arrears from 1st January 1949 have been paid by mistake prior to issue of orders regarding the date from which arrears could be paid to unqualified employees and in many such cases, the over-payment was not recovered as it would mean hardship to the staff concerned.